

MEDICAL PARASITOLOGY—For Medical Students and Practicing Physicians. By William G. Sawitz, M.D., Associate Professor of Parasitology, Associate in Medicine, The Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. The Blakiston Company, Philadelphia, 1950. \$4.25.

There seems little reason for another text on medical parasitology unless it has unique features that make it of more value than books already available. Such is the case with Sawitz' new volume of 296 pages including a usable index. The author is abundantly qualified by experience and judgment for such a task. He aims at a fairly restricted and specific field in his introduction. He says, "This manual is intended as a Lecture and Laboratory Guide for students in their course in Medical Parasitology. It does not, and is not intended to, replace text books which are essential for parasitologists. Medical schools, however, do not train parasitologists." How true and how often forgotten! He continues, "It is the aim of this manual to present the subject from the medical rather than from the zoological point of view to present the information necessary for the understanding of parasitic diseases."

It is refreshing to have an up-to-date new book of such a nature and of definitive use to newer and especially younger medical practitioners. The contents include the usual human parasitic protozoa, worms and arthropods, a short section on collection of material, a condensed Chapter 5 (p. 205) on treatment, and a useful vocabulary.

This little volume is well-printed, lies flat and stays open and will be of definite use to many laboratory technicians and all physicians in general practice, internal medicine or diagnosis, besides medical students.

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PHYSICIAN'S HANDBOOK. By Marcus A. Krupp, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine; Director, Clinical Pathology, VA Hospital, San Francisco; Norman J. Sweet, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, U. C. School of Medicine; Ernest Jawetz, M.D., Associate Professor of Bacteriology and Lecturer in Medicine and Pediatrics, U. C. School of Medicine; and Charles D. Armstrong, M.D., Clinical Instructor in Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine. Sixth Edition. University Medical Publishers, Post Office Box 761, Palo Alto, Calif. 1950. \$2.50.

The sixth edition of this popular handbook has been completely revised in format and content. The four new authors have been successful in condensing a great amount of factual material without sacrificing accuracy and readability. Recent advances in diagnostic methods and therapy have been included and new sections relating to electrocardiography, electroencephalography and radioisotopes have been added.

The sections on electrocardiography and electrolyte balance are outstanding for straightforward presentations of difficult subjects and will be of great value to those needing concise information in these fields. However, all sections in this new edition reveal the painstaking efforts of the authors and it is perhaps unfair to single out particular sections for commendation. The sections dealing with specific phases of laboratory diagnosis contain information on a great number of diagnostic procedures which are usually found only in the larger volumes on this subject.

The illustrations are excellent and the offset printing is attractive and easy to read. The new rapid index combined with a practical grouping of material enables the reader to find what he wants in a minimum of time.

Although some readers may take issue with a few statements found in various sections, it is the opinion of the reviewer that a handbook to be of value must be didactic. If the reader desires a more complete evaluation of certain disputed points he should use other source material.

This volume is outstanding in its field and will prove of value to students, graduate trainees, general physicians and specialists.

THE PHARMACOPEIA OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (THE U. S. PHARMACOPEIA). Fourteenth Revision (U.S.P. XIV) and the First U.S.P. XIV Supplement—Mack Publishing Company, Easton, Pa., 1950. \$9.00.

The current edition of the Pharmacopeia contains more than 200 additional drugs with less than 100 deletions. The antibiotics, antiparasitic agents, ephedrine substitutes, analgetics, and many other new products now are given public, unprotected U.S.P. titles and descriptions.

The pharmacopeia is chiefly of interest to pharmacists for specifications, and assay and analytical procedures. To the physician, its chief use is as a source of essentially non-commercial products.

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STREPTOMYCIN. Edited by Selman A. Waksman, Ph.D., New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Rutgers University. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1949. \$10.00.

This book presents the microbiologic, pharmacologic and clinical properties of streptomycin as summarized by authorities in various fields. Considerable information has been assembled by authors who were well chosen for their close association with investigational and practical endeavors in this field. Each author develops his topic in one of the 46 chapters and gives references to the pertinent literature listed in a bibliography appearing at the end of each chapter. The chapters vary considerably in scope and skill of presentation and unfortunately the writers repeat numerous references and needlessly duplicate much background material. A single bibliography and more liberal blue pencil might well have avoided this defect.

Taken topic by topic a handy reference source is provided both as to data and cross-reference to salient literature. Used in this manner the arrangement and index seem adequate. However, when read in toto, the reader is bogged down by many statements of bacterial sensitivity, action and nomenclature. A second impasse is reached wading through almost interminable disease entities whose course has been altered by the advent of streptomycin. This is perhaps a tribute to the wide applicability of the antibiotic. Approached individually, chapters devoted to these subjects provide much authoritative detail. The first few chapters give an interesting historical picture of the impressive phase of the development of streptomycin.

To the student of bacteriology and medicine concerned with bacterial disease and especially with the management of tuberculosis, close acquaintance with streptomycin is mandatory. This volume provides the background for intelligent utilization of this potent agent. Availability of a composite volume of this type should serve many physicians, bacteriologists and chemists as a reference source.

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PROGRESS IN NEUROLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY—An Annual Review, Volume V. Edited by E. A. Spiegel, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Experimental Neurology, Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1950. \$10.00.

This excellent review is the last of a series which has established itself as consistently excellent in its field. It is obviously aimed at the level of the specialist in neurology and psychiatry, but the greater portion of the volume would be of definite value to the general practitioner of medicine as well. The book is divided into three sections. Something over 100 pages are devoted to the basic sciences, 300 to neurology, and 200 to psychiatry. Perusal of the latter two sections should bring one up to date in these two specialties which form such a large part of the everyday practice of medicine. Equally, it may help to dispel the prevalent misconception that neurologists are interested only in the diagnosis of obscure clinical entities to the exclusion of the therapeutic approach.